ENGINEERING EXPERTS—CONSULTATIONS—COST OF

191. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the total money spent for consulting the Engineering Experts within the last 15 years in investigating Engineering schemes;

(*b*) whether any scheme has been worked out except the Ram Mohan Palace?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) Rs. 57,920—11—8.

(*b*) No.

BOYS AND GIRLS EMPLOYED IN THE SITARAM MILLS, COCHIN TEXTILES, ETC.

192. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of boys and girls below 18 years of age employed in the (*i*) Sitaram Mills, (*ii*) Cochin Textiles, (*iii*) Tata Oil Mills, (*iv*) and each of the other mills and factories in the State;

(*b*) whether these boys and girls have to attend to night duties also;

(*c*) if so, for how many hours in the week?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) (*i*) In Sitaram Mills boys 45, girls 9, (*ii*) The Cochin Textiles boys 395, girls 76, (*iii*) The Tata Oil Mills boys nil, girls nil, (*iv*) the particulars have not been received from all the factories as called for.

(*b*) Girls do not attend to night shift. Only boys are attending.

(*c*) They work for 54 hours in a week.

ARTICLE IN THE "GOMATHI" DATED 23rd MITHUNAM 1118

193. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have noted the report by a correspondent in "Gomathi" dated 23rd Mithunam 1118 from Koratti under the caption "പാർത്ഥസാരഥിയും എക്സൈസ് ശിപായിയും" (Parvathiakaran and Excise Peon);

(*b*) if so, whether any case has been registered;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) above is in the affirmative at what stage the case is standing?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A case has been registered for the export of cattle to Travancore without permit.

(*c*) The case is pending in the Court.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

BILLS—(Non-official)

The Cochin Citizens in Enemy Hands Protection Bill

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Sir, I beg leave of the House to move for the introduction of the Cochin Citizens in Enemy Hands Protection Bill.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: I beg to second it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: It is now necessary to state the principle of the Bill and its general provisions. The principle of the Bill is affording relief to those unfortunate citizens of the Cochin State who are now in enemy hands or in territories occupied by the enemy and also those who have dealings with those unfortunate fellow-citizens of ours. The general provisions of the Bill, if I may elaborate further, are only these. We find that in Burma there are 7½ lakhs of Indians, and in the Federated Malay States, 5 lakhs. And out of that, quite a good number are Cochinites. Now these Cochin subjects who are in enemy hands cannot possibly come here and claim the money due to them, nor can we collect the moneys from them. I am not very much concerned with the latter, as with the former. As regards this question, the House will find that the law of limitation is inexorable. Unless some provision is made, their interests will be at stake. There are several to whom thousands of rupees are due, and the law of limitation may step in between them and their money. The hostilities began on 3rd September 1939. The law of limitation should not be made applicable to them till the cessation of hostilities and for 12 months after their obtaining freedom to come over to India. I submit this for the acceptance of the House.

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